GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:832
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2014
FREIGHT AND PASSENGER TRANSPORT
Trivedi Shri Dinesh

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken/being taken by the Railways to improve the declining share of railways in total freight and passenger transport in the country; and

(b) the measures taken/being taken to reduce cross - subsidization of passenger business by their freight business in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a): It is the continuous endeavor of the Railways to improve their share in freight and passenger transport. Various measures such as enhancement of axle loads for enabling carriage of higher pay load per freight car, increasing the carrying capacity of wagons etc have been taken in the recent past. Use of extensive computerization in freight operations to improve monitoring and improve utilization of assets has also been carried out. Steps have been taken to improve maintenance practices of wagons and locomotives resulting in increased availability of rolling stock for traffic use. Railways have also introduced a number of schemes to attract traffic to Rail, namely Incentive scheme for Incremental Traffic, Incentive scheme for traditional Empty Flow Direction etc. Recently a pilot project, Automatic Freight Rebate Scheme for traffic booked in empty flow directions was launched with effect from 01.10.2014. In order to increase passenger earnings, various measures have been taken such as introduction of new trains, enhancement of the composition of more popular trains, attachment of extra coaches in existing trains. Also special trains are run during peak seasons, festivals and special events, keeping in view the pattern of traffic, commercial justification, operational feasibility, availability of resources etc. Running of special trains keeping in view the demand on various sectors is a continuous process.

(b): With effect from 25.06.2014, the passenger fares of all classes including Monthly Season Tickets were increased by 14.2%, inclusive of Fuel Adjustment Component (FAC) of 4.2% whereas the freight rates were increased by 6.5%, inclusive of FAC of 1.4%. The fare and freight revision so proposed were to correct freight to fare ratio imbalance and improve it from 4.2 to 4.0.